

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the application of:

Katsuhiro HIEJIMA et al.

Serial Number: Not yet assigned

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Filed: March 16, 2004

Art Unit: Not yet assigned

For: MEDICAL VALVE

Customer No.: 20374

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

March 16, 2004

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the fee and examination on the merits of the above-identified patent application, please amend the application as follows: